



A Message from the Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, M.P., Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs



The Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs; Ms. Sylvie Forbin, Deputy Director General, Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, WIPO and Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller, Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs.

World IP Day 2020 - Innovate for a Green Future

The Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO) of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs (AGLA) is the Local Government Agency responsible for the administration of the Intellectual Property (IP) rights in Trinidad and Tobago. The TTIPO in tandem with IP Offices around the world, joins in the celebration of World Intellectual Property Day 2020. This annual event which was established by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) is celebrated to create an awareness of the role of IP rights in promoting innovation and creativity. In the midst of the current global pandemic, this year's theme is: "Innovate for a Green Future".

Over time, environmental concerns have propelled several inventions and

innovations enabling greater performance from less input and resources. Such innovations allow for the timely production, effective resource management and improvements in operational safety.

However throughout the years, human behaviour has grown to be less sustainable for the planet with clear indicators of a compromised future. Though indescribably tragic, the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we think and operate. It has allowed us to implement new systems of operation which have yielded positive results.. Stay at home guidelines have forced us to slow down and allowed the planet to rejuvenate.

The present restrictions implemented to fight the spread of COVID-19 have prompted several innovations in the production and delivery

of goods and services. It has also served as a platform to advance Government's implementation of new processes such as online filing at the TTIPO and online credit card payments at the AGLA. The TTIPO's initiatives of working-from-home and making its internal databases and drives remotely accessible to staff are now operational. It enables examiners and management to run several aspects of in-office operations and interactions remotely, thereby minimizing face to face service.

The planet's trajectory is highly dependent on the steps we take today towards a green future; toward a reduced dependency on non-renewable energy and bio products to produce a safer and cleaner environment for ensuing generations.

"Innovate for a Green Future" focuses on how innovation and the supporting IP rights can be central to salient efforts in creating a more sustainable and green future. Holding the responsibility for IP, as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, investing in 'a green future' is a promise to the coming generations. I give the commitment that this Government will place a greater emphasis on the development of IP in 'Innovating for a Green Future'.

I therefore challenge everyone, on this occasion of World Intellectual Property Day 2020, to reflect on our individual and collective creativity to revolutionise a green future based on respect for and promotion of IP and invite you to join with the TTIPO as it engages in virtual activities, such as patent mining for green technologies.

I extend best wishes to our creators and innovators of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

See WIPO's IP Day webpage at <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/>

